



2017 Dental Schedule Handbook



Your guide to the
Alberta Blue Cross
Dental Schedule



2017 Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule: Helping you keep your healthy smile

January 2017						
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August 2017						
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October 2017						
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November 2017						
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December 2017						
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About the schedule

This handbook provides an informative reference guide for the Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule including a list of the maximum amounts your plan will pay for the most common dental procedures.

Please refer to this schedule **prior to your dental appointments.**

Important note

Coverage for specific dental procedures varies depending on your particular plan design.

Some procedures listed in this book may not be covered by your particular dental plan. Please consult your plan contract or benefit booklet for more information.



Why a dental schedule?

In Alberta, individual dental providers are able to set their own prices. This situation differs from that in many other provinces where dentists follow a fee guide established by provincial dental associations. As a result, dental offices across Alberta charge widely varying prices for dental services.

The Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule provides our plan members with a reasonable basis for payment of dental claims. The amounts are established by analyzing other provincial dental associations' fee guides, economic factors and what is deemed reasonable in the current market.



The Dental Schedule Handbook

This handbook lists the maximum amounts your plan allows for many common dental services. Your eligibility for coverage of specific procedures depends on your particular plan design. Some procedures listed in this book may not be covered by your particular plan.

All Alberta dental offices have access to the 2017 Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule. Your dental provider has quick and easy access to information about your dental coverage electronically through CDAnet and DACnet.

Understanding your dental schedule

Keeping your plan affordable

The Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule exists to provide you with quality dental benefits **while keeping your plan viable and affordable**. Each year, payment amounts are established that are reasonable and in most cases are equal to or higher than other western provinces. The dental schedule allows you to have dental coverage through a viable, economical benefit plan.

It's important to understand that your plan pays dental expenses according to the Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule. This means that if your plan states you have 100 per cent dental coverage, your plan will pay 100 per cent of dental schedule amounts, not necessarily 100 per cent of what the dentist charges.

As fees for dental services in Alberta are set by each dentist, and in many cases are rising at levels beyond inflation, if Alberta Blue Cross were to simply pay what each individual dentist billed, your dental plan rates would have to be increased substantially. Over time, this would make your benefit plan unaffordable.



Make the most of your dental schedule

Be sure to notify your dental office that your dental coverage is paid according to the Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule.

Most dentists are able to electronically submit a predetermination to Alberta Blue Cross prior to your appointment. This allows your dental provider to check how much your plan pays for dental procedures and how much, if anything, you would have to pay out of pocket.

If your dental provider charges more than what your dental plan allows, you may face out-of-pocket costs.

To make it easier to have a discussion about the amount charged for dental services, please show your Alberta Blue Cross ID card to ensure your dental office has your correct coverage information.

Should your dental provider bill more than your dental schedule, you will be responsible for paying the difference. You do have the following options:

- You can agree to pay any extra amount billed beyond what the Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule pays.
- You can access services from another dental provider or consider using a different provider in the future if you have already had your dental work completed.

You will still be required to pay any applicable co-pay or deductible amounts (where applicable) at the time of your appointment.



Decisions about treatment remain between you and your dental provider.

Enjoy the advantages of direct billing

Alberta Blue Cross plan members and dental providers benefit from the convenience of direct assignment billing.

When your dental provider bills Alberta Blue Cross directly for services covered by your plan, you don't have to pay the entire cost up front. You will still be responsible for payment of any co-pay or deductible amounts. This also helps your dental provider reduce administration costs and receive payment promptly.

Today, most general practitioner dentists and denturists bill Alberta Blue Cross directly for patients' dental claims.

Dental providers make the choice whether or not to bill Alberta Blue Cross directly.

Before your next dental appointment, confirm that your dental office accepts assignment billing and uses online claims submission.

... you don't have to pay the entire cost up front, and your dental provider receives payment promptly.



Comparing prices

On the pages that follow are costs for some common dental procedures. There's also a comparison with other western provinces that shows the Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule amounts are comparable to the 2016 provincial dental associations' general practitioners fee guides in British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba for similar procedures.

Reminder: Your dentist can quickly check how much your plan pays for dental procedures by submitting a predetermination to Alberta Blue Cross prior to your appointment. Be sure to ask your dentist about this convenient service.

Coverage for specific dental procedures varies depending on your particular plan design. Please consult your plan contract or benefit booklet for more information. Or, learn more about your benefit details by signing into our member web site at **www.ab.bluecross.ca**.

Offering value

The Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule takes into account the costs associated with operating a dental practice and is a well-researched and credible basis for payment of your dental claims.

The dental schedule is reviewed on an annual basis to ensure it continues to meet the needs of all concerned. This review considers a wide variety of economic factors other provincial dental associations' fee guides and feedback from both dental providers and our plan members.

Each year, the dental schedule fee amounts are increased to appropriately reflect the economy, dental expenses and other factors while still ensuring reasonable benefit plan rates.



The 2017 Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule offers plan members value through a benefit plan that contains viable, affordable dental coverage.

Typical annual checkup for adults

<i>Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule comparison to the 2016 provincial dental associations' general practitioner fee guides in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia</i>	Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule	British Columbia	Saskatchewan	Manitoba
Recall exam Procedure 01202	\$53.00	\$27.70	\$35.00	\$43.50
2 bitewing radiographs Procedure 02142	\$29.70	\$23.70	\$31.00	\$29.40
2 time units scaling Procedure 11112	\$107.40	\$73.80	\$74.00	\$110.60
1 time unit polishing Procedure 11101	\$44.80	\$34.70**	\$34.00**	\$43.00
Fluoride Procedure 12101	\$20.00	\$14.10	\$21.00	\$20.60
Total	\$254.90	\$174.00	\$195.00	\$247.10

**no longer based on units of time

Typical annual checkup for children

<i>Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule comparison to the 2016 provincial dental associations' general practitioner fee guides in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia</i>	Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule	British Columbia	Saskatchewan	Manitoba
Recall exam Procedure 01202	\$53.00	\$27.70	\$35.00	\$43.50
2 bitewing radiographs Procedure 02142	\$29.70	\$23.70	\$31.00	\$29.40
1 time unit scaling Procedure 11111	\$53.70	\$36.90	\$37.00	\$110.60
1 time unit polishing Procedure 11101	\$44.80	\$34.70**	\$34.00**	\$43.00
Fluoride Procedure 12101	\$20.00	\$14.10	\$21.00	\$20.60
Total	\$201.20	\$137.10	\$158.00	\$247.10

**no longer based on units of time

Restorations (fillings)

Each person has unique dental needs, so your dental treatment may be different from the examples shown here. Please note that some procedures listed in this book may not be covered by your particular dental plan.

<i>Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule comparison to the 2016 provincial dental associations' general practitioner fee guides in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia</i>	Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule	British Columbia	Saskatchewan	Manitoba
4 surface amalgam (silver) filling—permanent molar Procedure 21224	\$223.30	\$243.00	\$225.00	\$235.40
2 pins for filling Procedure 21402	\$44.50	\$47.40	\$41.00	\$40.00
Total	\$267.80	\$290.40	\$266.00	\$275.40

Crown procedures

Dentist's fees only: all fees have additional lab charges.

<i>Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule comparison to the 2016 provincial dental associations' general practitioner fee guides in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia</i>	Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule	British Columbia	Saskatchewan	Manitoba
Porcelain fused to metal crown Procedure 27211	\$792.20*	\$742.00*	\$745.00*	\$791.50*
Post—cast metal Procedure 25721	\$171.20*	\$125.00*	\$186.00*	\$190.00*
Total	\$963.40	\$867.00	\$931.00	\$981.50

*plus lab fees

Root canal therapy

<i>Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule comparison to the 2016 provincial dental associations' general practitioner fee guides in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia</i>	Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule	British Columbia	Saskatchewan	Manitoba
3 root, root canal therapy Procedure 33131	\$825.80	\$786.00	\$868.00	\$882.90

Three unit bridge procedures

Dentist's fees only: all fees have additional lab charges.

<i>Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule comparison to the 2016 provincial dental associations' general practitioner fee guides in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia</i>	Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule	British Columbia	Saskatchewan	Manitoba
Retainer, (crown) for fixed bridge * Procedure 67211	\$753.40*	\$695.00*	\$676.00*	\$806.20*
Retainer, (crown) for fixed bridge * Procedure 67211	\$753.40*	\$695.00*	\$676.00*	\$806.20*
Pontic, for fixed bridge (to replace missing tooth) Procedure 62501	\$337.30*	\$318.00*	\$337.00*	\$388.90*
Total	\$1,844.10	\$1,708.00	\$1,689.00	\$2,001.30

*plus lab fees

Coverage for specific dental procedures varies depending upon your particular plan design.

Some procedures listed in this book may not be covered by your particular dental plan.

Please consult your plan contract or benefit booklet for more information.



Denture services

Regardless of your age, dentures are a viable option to replace missing teeth.

Denturists are independent dental professionals who examine, diagnose and treat patients who require dentures. They usually offer their services from denture clinics, which function independently of dentists. In Alberta, denturists have expanded duties and provide complete or partial denture services.



Examples of denturist fees

Procedures	Professional fee
General prosthodontic exam Procedure 01701-10010	\$67.40
Complete upper denture Procedure 51101-31310	\$668.60*
Complete lower denture Procedure 51102-31320	\$668.60*
Partial upper denture Procedure 53101-41114	\$712.10*
Complete upper denture repair Procedure 55101-36110	\$60.80*
Complete upper denture reline (processed) Procedure 56231-32215	\$201.50*

**plus lab fees*

Not all procedures listed in this book may be covered by your plan.

Consult your plan contract or benefit booklet for more information.

Examples of common dental procedures

Compared to 2016 British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba Dental Association Fee Guides for General Practitioners.

Coverage for specific dental procedures varies depending upon your particular plan design. Some procedures listed in this book may not be covered by your particular dental plan.

Please consult your plan contract or benefit booklet for more information.

Procedure code	Description	Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule	British Columbia	Saskatchewan	Manitoba
01103	Complete examination (new patient—all permanent teeth)	\$110.50	\$91.30	\$109.00	N/A [†]
01201	Limited new patient examination	\$53.00	\$41.80	\$45.00	\$110.80
01202	Recall examination (checkup)	\$53.00	\$27.70	\$35.00	\$43.50
01204	Specific examination	\$53.00	\$35.60	\$43.00	\$35.60
01205	Emergency examination	\$53.00	\$52.10	\$53.00	\$49.80
02102	Full set of X-rays	\$112.40	\$95.00	\$146.00	\$116.70
02111	1 X-ray (periapical)	\$20.50	\$17.30	\$23.00	\$21.50
02112	2 X-rays (periapical)	\$29.70	\$23.70	\$31.00	\$29.40
02113	3 X-rays (periapical)	\$38.90	\$30.20	\$39.00	\$37.30
02114	4 X-rays (periapical)	\$48.00	\$36.70	\$47.00	\$45.70
02142	2 X-rays (bitewing)	\$29.70	\$23.70	\$31.00	\$29.40
02144	4 X-rays (bitewing)	\$48.00	\$36.70	\$47.00	\$45.70
02601	Panoramic (whole mouth) X-ray	\$75.70	\$65.80	\$70.00	\$78.20
11101	Polishing (up to 15 minutes)	\$44.80	\$34.70**	\$34.00**	\$43.00

[†]fee information unavailable

**no longer based on units of time

Examples of common dental procedures (continued)

Procedure code	Description	Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule	British Columbia	Saskatchewan	Manitoba
11111	Scaling (removal of tartar, up to 15 minutes)	\$53.70	\$36.90	\$37.00	\$55.30
11112	Scaling (removal of tartar, up to 30 minutes)	\$107.40	\$73.80	\$74.00	\$110.60
11114	Scaling (removal of tartar, up to 60 minutes)	\$214.80	\$147.60	\$148.00	\$221.20
12101	Fluoride	\$20.00	\$14.10	\$21.00	\$20.60
13401	Pit and fissure sealant (first tooth)	\$30.20	\$26.20	\$27.00	\$32.40
13409	Pit and fissure sealant (each additional tooth same area)	\$15.10	\$14.40	\$18.00	\$16.20
21112	2 surface amalgam (silver) filling —primary tooth	\$120.30	\$119.00	\$118.00	\$122.00
21113	3 surface amalgam (silver) filling —primary tooth	\$139.00	\$129.00	\$136.00	\$255.40
21212	2 surface amalgam (silver) filling —permanent anterior tooth/bicuspid	\$135.60	\$135.00	\$155.00	\$134.40
21213	3 surface amalgam (silver) filling —permanent anterior tooth/bicuspid	\$163.90	\$160.00	\$177.00	\$163.50
21222	2 surface amalgam (silver) filling —permanent molar	\$159.40	\$162.00	\$174.00	\$157.20
21224	4 surface amalgam (silver) filling —permanent molar	\$223.30	\$243.00	\$225.00	\$235.40
21401	1 pin for filling	\$32.00	\$31.40	\$27.00	\$26.60

Examples of common dental procedures (continued)

Procedure code	Description	Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule	British Columbia	Saskatchewan	Manitoba
21402	Two pins for filling	\$44.50	\$47.40	\$41.00	\$40.00
22211	Stainless steel crown—primary tooth	\$207.60	\$196.00	\$179.00	\$192.80
23111	1 surface composite (white) filling —permanent anterior tooth	\$129.70	\$120.00	\$124.00	\$133.60
23113	3 surface composite (white) filling —permanent anterior tooth	\$191.50	\$183.00	\$198.00	\$212.80
23312	2 surface composite (white) filling —permanent bicuspid	\$203.70	\$193.00	\$195.00	\$211.50
23321	1 surface composite (white) filling —permanent molar	\$156.30	\$151.00	\$156.00	\$159.00
23323	3 surface composite (white) filling —permanent molar	\$275.40	\$279.00	\$248.00	\$276.10
23512	2 surface etched composite (white) filling—primary posterior tooth	\$173.10	\$181.00	\$195.00	\$184.20
27211	Porcelain fused to metal crown	\$792.20*	\$742.00*	\$745.00*	\$791.50*
27301	Metal (gold) crown	\$792.20*	\$702.00*	\$745.00*	\$791.50*
27602	Lab processed veneer	\$576.70*	\$742.00*	\$586.00*	\$594.70*
29101	Recementation of a crown (up to 15 minutes)	\$75.70*	\$71.90*	\$112.00*	\$81.80*
33111	Root canal therapy (one root)	\$498.60	\$431.00	\$502.00	\$483.40

*plus lab fees

Examples of common dental procedures (continued)

Procedure code	Description	Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule	British Columbia	Saskatchewan	Manitoba
33131	Root canal therapy (three roots)	\$825.80	\$786.00	\$868.00	\$882.90
43421	Root planing (removal of tartar, etc. from roots; up to 15 minutes)	\$53.70	\$36.90	\$37.00	\$59.00
43422	Root planing (removal of tartar, etc. from roots; up to 30 minutes)	\$107.40	\$73.80	\$74.00	\$118.00
51101	Complete upper denture	\$739.80*	\$738.00*	\$921.00*	\$815.20*
62501	Pontic for fixed bridge (to replace missing tooth)	\$337.30*	\$318.00*	\$337.00*	\$388.90*
67211	Retainer (crown) for fixed bridge	\$753.40*	\$695.00*	\$676.00*	\$806.20*
71101	Uncomplicated tooth removal (first tooth)	\$130.30	\$117.00	\$132.00	\$129.70
71109	Uncomplicated tooth removal (each additional tooth in same area)	\$78.20	\$77.40	\$99.00	\$97.30
72111	Surgical tooth removal (first tooth—soft tissue coverage)	\$221.00	\$231.00	\$223.00	\$245.00
72221	Tooth removal—complete bone coverage	\$382.50	\$378.00	\$409.00	\$442.60

Not all procedures may be covered by your plan. Consult your plan contract or benefit booklet for more information.

**plus lab fees*

Record of appointments

Date: _____

Patient: _____

Name of dentist: _____

Service performed: _____

Date: _____

Patient: _____

Name of dentist: _____

Service performed: _____

Date: _____

Patient: _____

Name of dentist: _____

Service performed: _____

Date: _____

Patient: _____

Name of dentist: _____

Service performed: _____

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Call us for more information about the **Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule**

780-498-8000

Edmonton and area

403-328-1785

Lethbridge

403-234-9666

Calgary and area

403-529-5553

Medicine Hat

780-532-3505

Grande Prairie

403-343-7009

Red Deer

1-800-661-6995 toll free

www.ab.bluecross.ca

Please present this card to your dental office prior to your appointment.



This dental plan pays according to amounts listed in the Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule.

For more information regarding Alberta Blue Cross Dental Schedule amounts and eligible benefits, please check this patient's plan details through CDAnet™ or contact Alberta Blue Cross Dental Services.